



# Thunder Run

Vol. 17 – NO. 4

“Together Then – Together Again”

4th Quarter, 2002

## The 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia

### Reflection on Reunions

..and a tribute to some very special people

By: Ty Dodge,  
3d Platoon, 1 Troop, 1969

Imagine that it’s sunset, and you’re standing at the rim of the Grand Canyon. It’s an awesome sight, truly beyond description. In your hands you hold a four-dollar, throwaway camera. You snap a picture.

Twenty-five years later, you pull that faded photo from an old trunk and show it to a friend, trying to help him understand the awesome majesty of the Canyon. He yawns. It’s nearly impossible for him to capture the grandeur of that moment twenty- five years ago. And, frankly, he doesn’t give a rip. So you stuff it.

Now imagine that as a young man you rode with The Blackhorse in Vietnam, sharing that most significant experience with a handful of other Blackhorse troopers. Then you DEROSed back to an America that, frankly, didn’t give a rip. And so, you stuffed it. How could you possibly explain it to them, anyway?

Please turn to **REFLECTION** on page 8

### An Open Letter

## A Special Thanks for the Memories

■ To the The Founders of The 11th ACVVC and Those Who Made The Nashville Reunion Possible

By: Richard A. Newman,  
(HHT, 2/11, 1969 – ’70)

To, too many to list, maybe to the 11th; At least to all who did anything to make Nashville happen and create the 11th ACVVC, as it was my first contact, I have no words that my meager English can express what I wish to say, but I’ll try briefly.

As shallow as it comes to sound and as often repeated as it is, Thank You.

All of us have a personal “feeling” about “Vietnam” that affects our total being, how deep it goes and where it comes from we will never know, we hope we can learn to understand, live with and deal with those feelings in some manner, and after Nashville stirred up some long buried blurry “stuff”, I feel different.

I didn’t have to be there [Vietnam or the reunion] but I wanted to for some vague patriotic reason. Now after meeting so many long lost buddies that I never knew in the first place, I think I know better why I was there. Family isn’t the word; maybe it is too much like “thank

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you”, used too often. I was only a Personnel clerk, but saw more of “Vietnam” as it was than 80% of those there, but nothing like what my fellow 11th did, admiration is another shallow word. What an attitude, I know mine will be better. God bless

Might I comment on Nashville?

We have all eaten elbows to our buddies ribs and off his lap, what makes anyone think it bothersome to do so again, there weren’t any bugs or dirt, and I washed my hands. I signed up late, so couldn’t complain, but wouldn’t. I loved it and didn’t mind ruffling my tux and getting my tie askew, as I didn’t have one again. Crowded? What better company, does anyone want to stand in lines or

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Ollie Pickral, President  
11th ACVVC

As you read this, we are preparing for two important dates: Thanksgiving and the Holiday Season. For most of us, these two holidays encourage a special

sense of caring and sharing within our traditional family gatherings. For this, we do have much to be thankful for. On behalf of all of our Officers and Directors of 11th ACVVC, we wish the happiest of holidays to each of you.

The Officers and Directors will meet again for a mid-year meeting at the Cibolo Ranch in West Texas. The meeting will take place in early February of 2003. Last year, we met in November to discuss the future of 11th ACVVC and to assure that our organization remains strong for our members. Many thanks are extended to our host at Cibolo Ranch, John Poindexter of A Troop, for his gracious hospitality.

11th ACVVC has committed to a contract to hold its 19th annual reunion in beautiful Daytona Beach, Florida. The contract was signed with the Adam's Mark Hotel located directly on the beach. This hotel is the finest hotel in all of Daytona and it has recently opened a new tower beside the main hotel. There are over 720 rooms in this fabulous hotel as well as a banquet hall that will seat 2,000 people. We are currently looking for members who live in the Daytona Beach area who would be willing to work with the Reunion Committee. If you are interested, please contact our Reunion Committee Chairman, Steve Page. His telephone and email information are located on page 3. More information will be provided in future issues of Thunder Run about this reunion. Now, let us put our thoughts in the upcoming 2003 Eugene, Oregon reunion. Reunion Event Chairman Adrian Vaaler is working

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daily to assure the 11th ACVVC has one of the best reunions yet. See Adrian's article in this issue. It is suggested you make your hotel reservations NOW with our host hotel, Hilton Eugene & Conference Center at: 1-800-445-8667. Be sure you tell them your reservation is for the 11th Cav Reunion to be held July 31 through August 3, 2003.

I do want to comment on the tremendous responses we are getting on the article from our 3rd quarter *Thunder Run* concerning the identification of our KIAs' unit assignment. We have gotten numerous emails, letters, and telephone calls identifying many of them. Thank you so much for your help in this endeavor. The identifications will allow us to identify all our KIAs by Troop letter or Company number and it will assist us if the organization ever decides in the future to have our own "traveling" Memorial built for our reunion sites. Of those that have yet to be identified, we are putting the list in again so others might recognize their brother trooper's from their Troop unit. We will continue posting the list until all are identified. Please send any information to one of the Officers and Directors listed on Page 3.

During the past few months, your Officers and Directors have been busy working for you. The following motions are submitted in order to keep you abreast of the issues and concerns of your organization:

**Motion 2002-0706A** passed unanimously – The 11th ACVVC will sponsor the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment NCO and Soldier of the Year Program by purchasing an annual \$300 US Savings Bond (cost is \$150) for each

winner. In addition, a permanent 11thACVVC plaque to be hung in the Regimental HQ will be purchased and designed listing the names of the annual winners.

**Motion 2002-0710** passed unanimously - The 11th ACVVC will accept the version dated July 10, 2002 of the Guide To The 11th ACVVC Scholarship Program as our official Scholarship Program Guide. This Guide will be posted on the website and provided in print form to all 2002 reunion attendees. This final revision eliminates the reference to WIAs.

**Motion 2002-0820** passed by a majority vote 6 to 1 – The 11th ACVVC will sponsor and fund the cost of having a Veterans Information speaker or program that will benefit our members at the annual reunion sites.

**Motion 2002-0827A** passed by majority vote 6 to 1 – The 11th ACVVC will establish a credit card account for the 11th ACVVC to accept payments from members via credit card.

**Motion 2002-0904A** passed by majority vote 6 to 1 – Obligate \$1,500 for a suite in the Washington, DC, Marriott Hotel for November 8-10 2002 to serve as an 11th ACVVC Hospitality Suite during the 20th Anniversary Celebration of The Wall's dedication.

One last item.....Warren Swinford has been our Membership Committee chairman for a number of years and he is ready to turn it over to another trooper willing to do the job. If you are interested in finding out everything there is to know about our computer program, membership card issuance, renewal reminders, and other facets, contact him at: (317) 539-7096 or email him at: wswinf01@aol.com. Warren will let you know the necessary information required in continuing the success of our membership program.

Deb and I hope that each of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving, a merry Holiday Season, and a happy New Year.

ALLONS

**THANKS** from page 1

“dress right”, it was a privilege to crowd together and make room for just one more and have the same done for me. Thanks to the hotel people also, they were great. You are supposed to give some of the good and some of the bad in an evaluation, the latter isn’t easy, but I suppose if we were all in the same hotel, but then it would have all been too big, we managed, well. Those who did make this all happen seemed to make it all so easy, no matter, thanks for the sweat we didn’t see. Say!!!? I should say, I’m not from some small town guy impressed by all the flash; my livelihood is the spit and polish of traveling the world.

Program: Well we listened to some brass, and even some stars, didn’t think it would impress me, but I was moved, impressed, inspired and proud, I guess I am still growing up, thanks to them also.

Veterans seminar: I am a VA patient

**What has been made of 11th ACVVC keeps blowing my mind.**

and all that, but all my petty complaints will stay that way, I feel much healthier and better-treated hearing from others. Those who conducted it and help those others, their patience and time is saintly, my need is small, but for what they do, well, thank you is once again a small crutch, and they are better men than I.

As for me, I have my small VA corner and a small disability; else wise I’ll stay as far away and out of the way as I can, but thanks for all the suggestions anyway

What has been made of 11th ACVVC keeps blowing my mind.

Allons

*God bless you all, I am sure there is a special place in Heaven and Fiddlers Green*

**Committee Selects An Additional Recipient**

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that Christi Duran who is the daughter of Diane Garber, and the late Thomas Garber has been moved onto the Scholarship list. Thomas served with How. Battery, 2nd Squadron, in 1969 and 1971. Christi will join the other recipients for the 2002 and 2003 school year. Congratulations to Christi who will attend Waubensee Community College in Sugar Grove, Illinois.

*John Sorich,  
Scholarship Committee Chairman*

**11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11ACVVC)**



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Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. All correspondence or inquiries should be made in writing to: Editor, “Thunder Run,” C.E. “Bill” Gregory Jr, 720 Ashbrook Dr., Hixson, TN 37343-1285 <Battle46A@comcast.net>

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# Editor's Corner

G.E. "Bill" Gregory, Jr.

We all know the history of our regiment, and have lived the history of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th.ACVVC). I come to the job as editor of *Thunder Run* humbled by the wonderful job done by the five previous editors. Starting in 1985, they have set the standards very high indeed, and I am challenged to keep this publication among the very best produced by a veterans organization such as ours. The publication will continue to change, as it has done through its history. This is necessary to keep up with the 11th.ACVVC as it grows, matures and changes to meet the needs of the membership. Hopefully, we will change to get better, never for the sake of change alone.

I have been impressed by many things about our organization through the many years that I have been a member, not the least of which is the foresight of those founding members who got together and formed the 11th.ACVVC. Our thanks go to them and the many troopers, wives, and other family members, who have given so much time and effort to keep the organization strong through the years.

Since taking the editor's job I have had a chance to see more of the inner workings of the 11th.ACVVC. I have been impressed by two things, first is the hard work and dedication of your elected officers. Without exception, I have seen nothing but professionalism, dedication, and hard work from them. I say that from the perspective of an "outsider," not having been in the job long



**From my wife, Pattie and myself, we wish you a joyful and much blessed holiday season and a prosperous new year.**

enough to be considered an "insider." The second impressive thing I have noticed is the tremendous amount of writing talent among the members and their families. To help those who want to share their articles and poems with the rest of us, we are publishing some guidelines or suggestions later in this issue. Keep sending your articles in, there is no such thing as too many. We cannot promise that your piece will be published, but if we do not have it, it can't be.

We hope you enjoy this issue. There is an important message and status report from our President, and the usual entertaining messages from Chaplain Haworth and Barb Moreno, the Women's Coordinator. We have a good assortment of short articles and poems from members, plus information on the next reunion and opportunities to purchase items from the Quartermaster in time for the holidays. "The Blackhorse in Vietnam" VHS Tape and DVD has proven popular and is available through the Quartermaster. We hope you enjoy this issue and let us know if you have any ideas on how we can get better.

This is the last issue of 2002 and the holiday season is upon us. From my wife, Pattie and myself, we wish you a joyful and much blessed holiday season and a prosperous new year.

# Absent Friends

By Thomas H. Reese  
M Company, 1970

Dawn breaks over the fog - shrouded edge of the jungle canopy. Silence is the only sound I hear. My eyelids are crusted shut. No more tears to moisten them. Memories of the night before slowly creep into my consciousness. Dryness parches my throat, my skin crawls with the tension of combat and the smell of death fills the still, warm air.

Empty faces greet me as I peer into the fog. Shattered forms of the night before appear whole. Voices tell me they are well and that I should not grieve but honor their ultimate sacrifice. They ask me to tell their stories of valor and sacrifice in order that future generations of American men and women will not forget them, their spirit, resolve and courage.

Time diminishes my memories of long ago. Rivers that ran red with blood now gurgle and meander aimlessly through the landscape. Stained and barren earth has been recaptured by nature and the land is now lush and green. But, in the distant recollections of my mind, I see young men who, in the prime of their lives, shared their dreams and future hopes with me. Leading them was, and remains, the greatest honor of my life.

I returned. I pray that the life I have led has, in some small way, fulfilled the dreams of those fallen comrades of yesterday and that they are proud.

Young men, 768 in all, rest peacefully on Fiddler's Green and await our arrival - ready to ride again... I will not forget - and raise my glass to Absent Friends.

ALLONS!

*Note: During the Vietnam War, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Blackhorse) suffered 768 KIA and over 5000 wounded. Three troopers from the Regiment were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.*

## Bumper Stickers

- ◆ TIME IS WHAT KEEPS THINGS FROM HAPPENING ALL AT ONCE
- ◆ I DIDN'T FIGHT MY WAY TO THE TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN TO BE A VEGETARIAN.

## MOVING?

We want you to get your copy of **Thunder Run** without a lot of trouble? Complete this form and mail it to: **11th ACVVC Membership Update, Warren Swinford, 2300 W 400 S., Clayton, IN 46118.**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# How Do I Publish In *Thunder Run*?

By: Bill Gregory, Editor

Many of our readers have poems, stories and other writings that they want to share with the rest of our readers. I cannot give you a sure fire formula to guarantee that your piece will get into *Thunder Run*; but I can offer some suggestions that will help increase your chances. We want to publish your writings, that is one of the reasons we exist. Often there are reasons beyond your control and my control that keep your writings from being published. For example, we devote a lot of space to reunion information, and that is proper. It is proper because one of the main reasons the 11th ACVVC exists is to support the conduct of reunions, and *Thunder Run* is the only way to communicate the necessary information to the membership. Another priority of the publication is communications from your elected officers and board of directors. Again, this publication is the single best way for them to communicate with us, and we must give any official communications priority.

This brings us to the rest of the articles in the newsletter. You can help your chances in several ways.

◆ **First**, we must be able to read them.

The absolute best way to send them to the editor is by computer, in a "Microsoft Word" format. This pretty much guarantees that they are readable, plus it makes it easier to get them ready to go to the publisher, since we send them to him electronically. Not everyone can send them by computer, so it is OK to send them by mail, again they must be readable, preferably typed and proofed for spelling and grammar. Again, not everyone can send them typed, so if you want to send them in handwriting, that is still OK, as long as we can read them. Be as brief as possible, we don't want to put an arbitrary limit on how long an article can be, but keep in mind that a 500 to 800 word piece has a much better chance than a 2000 word work. Sometimes we use the longer pieces, but most articles we publish are going to be less than 1000 words.

◆ **Second**, tell us who you are, so we can credit your work. Tell us your name, your unit and when you served. If you did not write the piece, tell us who did, and be

**We do want your stories, poems and other work, send them to us and we will try to help you share with the rest of our readers.**

sure we have their permission to publish it. For example, if your wife wrote the poem we need her name and her permission to use it. If you name other people in your writings, especially if you describe them in any sort of humorous way, get their permission. For example if you say: "I could see that Sergeant Joe The Tanker, a tidy Ohio boy . . .". We need Joe's permission, since he might be offended, or not want his name used. Often, we get very good articles with names or descriptions of people, and then we have only two choices. We can edit the names out, or not publish the piece. We do not like to edit your work more than we have to, and if we feel that editing the piece will materially change its message, we have no option but to not publish it.

◆ **Third**, we cannot publish articles that advocate a political agenda. We risk our non-profit status by doing so, and though we all have political beliefs, this is not the forum for them. We also cannot publish material that is in any way offensive to our members or their families. It is not just members who read our newsletter, but spouses and children as well. Finally, we cannot publish copyrighted material without the written permission of the copyright holder.

When you send an article for publication, it is subject to editing, that is we may have to delete some things, like names of people. We may have to reformat it to make it fit, and on rare occasions, we may even have to leave some sections of it out for space or other reasons. We would rather publish it exactly as you wrote it, but this is not always possible. We do try not to change the overall meaning of your work, if we think a necessary edit will materially change your message, we will not publish your work.

We hope this information will help you know what we need and increase your chances of being published. We do want your stories, poems and other work, send them to us and we will try to help you share with the rest of our readers.

# What is a Vet?

Submitted by: Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC's Women's Coordinator.

Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye.

Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg - or perhaps another sort of inner steel: the soul's ally forged in the refinery of adversity.

Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem.

You can't tell a vet just by looking.

What is a vet?

- He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.
- He is the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.
- She (or he) is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.
- He is the POW who went away one person and came back another - or didn't come back AT ALL.
- He is the drill instructor who has never seen combat - but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account rednecks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs.
- He is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.
- He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.
- He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb Of The Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington

Continued on page 9

# Unidentified Troop Assignments of our KIA

We still do not have many of the following 11th ACR, KIA Troopers unit assignments. Please inform the 11th ACVVC if you know what unit they served with, or if we have incorrect information on assignments, or dates.

PFC Dennis Springsteen	10/12/66	I Troop, 3/11.	SFC Robert Gregory	9/19/68	we show 2/11
PFC Jimmy Williams	10/25/66	E Troop, 2/11.	MAJ Norman Cunningham	9/24/68	Air Cav Troop (ACT)
PFC Melvin Anderson	12/1/66	we show 2/11	SP4 John Matuska	9/29/68	HHT, 2/11
SP4 Frank Reynolds	3/4/67	L Troop, 3/11	WO William Rollins	9/29/68	HHT, 2/11
SP4 Hugh Best	3/14/67	A Troop, 1/11.	PFC Don Crane	10/27/68	we show 3/11
SP4 James Ruffin	3/19/67	I Troop, 3/11.	PFC Kenneth Faul	10/28/68	we show 1/11
SP4 Jose Quintero	4/17/67	G Troop, 2/11.	SP4 Robert Press	10/31/68	K Troop, 3/11.
PFC Dale Tolbert	5/19/67	we show 1/11	CPT John Hayes	11/8/68	B Troop, 1/11.
PFC Donald Walters	5/22/67	we show 1/11	PFC Stephen Glore	11/11/68	we show 1/11
SP4 Edward Stahl	5/25/67	we show 2/11	PFC Robert Jasura	11/13/68	B Troop, 1/11.
PFC Francis Collins	6/5/67	we show 2/11	SGT Alfred Small	11/24/68	we show 3/11
SP4 Willie Page	6/6/67	we show 2/11	1stLt Johnny Benton	11/25/68	Air Cav Troop, (ACT)
PFC John Campa	7/21/67	HOW Battery, 3/11.	SP4 John Moulden	11/28/68	what Troop /Sqdn.??
PFC Frank Cruz	7/27/67	A Troop, 1/11.	PFC Nolan Byrd	12/3/68	we show 2/11
PFC Earl Long	8/15/67	we show 1/11	PVT Earl Thomas	12/21/68	H Company, 2/11.
1st Lt. Garland Whitmore	9/5/67	what Troop /Sqdn.??	SP4 Thomas Bullard	1/11/69	A Troop, 1/11.
SP4 Michael Gidvilas	9/7/67	we show 1/11	SSGT Thomas Pilsion	2/26/69	H Company, 2/11.
PFC James Lubas	9/22/67	D Company, 1/11.	SGT Frank Saracino	3/20/69	Air Cav Troop, (ACT).
PFC Lawrence Crawford	9/24/67	G Troop, 2/11.	CPT Kenneth Bailey	3/22/69	Air Cav Troop, (ACT).
PFC Erral Smallwood	9/24/67	G Troop, 2/11.	SP4 Bill Moschetti	3/23/69	C Troop, 1/11.
PFC Bobby Smith	9/24/67	F or G Troop ??	SSGT Gary Gillis	4/7/69	M Company, 3/11.
SP4 Joe Thomas	9/24/67	F or G Troop ??	SP4 Ricky Mauney	4/10/69	919th Engineer Co.
SSgt Johnny Hayes	9/26/67	we show 1/11	SP4 Larry Barfield	4/13/69	A Troop, 1/11.
PFC Melvin East	10/14/67	C Troop, 1/11.	SP4 Kenneth Jensen	4/13/69	Air Cav Troop, (ACT).
SSgt Robert Howard	11/4/67	we show 2/11	2nd Lt Daniel Leahy	4/18/69	we show 1/11
SP4 Walter Murphy	12/12/67	A Troop, 1/11.	SP4 Robert Morgan	4/18/69	we show 1/11
PFC Juan Burgos	12/14/67	E Troop, 2/11.	SP4 Ronald Pongratz	4/18/69	A Troop, 1/11.
SP4 Michael Jones	12/17/67	E Troop, 2/11.	SP4 Donald Noel	4/26/69	we show 1/11
PFC Reginald Chun	1/4/68	I Troop, 3/11.	1st Lt Edward Powers	5/2/69	HHT 3/11.
SSgt Clarence Claycomb	1/13/68	we show 1/11	PFC Wavel Powell	5/2/69	HHT 3/11.
PFC Bruce Dudley	1/23/68	what Troop /Sqdn. ??	SP4 Charles Case	5/12/69	what Troop /Sqdn.??
SP5 Julius Morris	1/25/68	we show 1/11	SSGT Gerald Hill	6/4/69	E Troop, 2/11.
PFC Kenneth Grassl	1/29/68	B Troop, 1/11.	SGT Kenneth Pitre	6/7/69	we show 1/11
PFC Ricky Myers	1/29/68	B Troop, 1/11.	SP4 Carlos Collazo	6/11/69	we show 3/11
SP4 John Zielinski	1/29/68	B Troop, 1/11.	SGT Hollis Miller	6/18/69	Air Cav Troop, (ACT).
PFC Randall Gustafson	2/14/68	I Troop, 3/11.	SP4 Edwin Turk	6/18/69	we show 3/11
PFC Joseph Weaver	2/14/68	I Troop, 3/11.	SP4 Calvin Hunt	6/19/69	HHT, 3/11.
SP4 Melvin Wangeshik	2/19/68	B Troop, 1/11.	1st Lt Bernard Pierce	6/19/69	I Troop, 3/11.
SP4 David Isom	2/23/68	we show 1/11	SP5 John Cornwall	7/9/69	919th Engineer Co.
2nd Lt Clarence Roussell	3/6/68	G Troop, 2/11.	SGT Jimmie Scrogum	7/9/69	919th Engineer Co.
PFC Donald Irby	3/9/68	what Troop /Sqdn.??	1st Lt Thomas Ceres	7/10/69	Air Cav Troop, (ACT).
PFC Santiago Torres	3/9/68	what Troop /Sqdn.??	1st Lt Robin Wetzler	7/10/69	Air Cav Troop, (ACT).
SGT Richard Vincent	3/9/68	what Troop /Sqdn.??	1st Lt Dennis Newman	7/15/69	G Troop, 2/11.
SP4 Theodore Mazon	3/18/68	what Troop /Sqdn.??	Sgt Charles Matthews	8/13/69	A Troop, 1/11.
( Date correction suggested on Mazon 4-19-68, Troop Unknown )			WO Terrance Ledden	9/5/69	what Troop /Sqdn.??
SP4 Victor Mohr	4/25/68	we show 1/11		(Chopper Pilot AH- 1G, Troop Unknown )	
SP5 Danny Rich	5/6/68	what Troop /Sqdn.??	SGT Leo Hartsuff	9/7/69	I Troop, 3/11.
CPL Kenneth Floyd	5/7/68	what Troop /Sqdn.??	SP4 John Shannon	9/14/69	what Troop /Sqdn.??
1st Lt Woodroe Warth	5/8/68	we show 3/11	SGT Anthony Standifer	9/18/69	what Troop /Sqdn.??
SFC Wallace Little	5/18/68	C Troop, 1/11.	SP4 William Haney	10/17/69	what Troop /Sqdn.??
SP4 Allan Fredricksen	5/19/68	A Troop, 1/11.	SP4 Peter Mestas	10/19/69	what Troop /Sqdn.??
PFC Stanley Schroeder	5/19/68	A Troop, 1/11.	SSGT Charles Russell	11/24/69	what Troop /Sqdn.??
PFC George Long	5/30/68	we show 1/11	SP4 Barry Scott	11/26/69	what Troop /Sqdn.??
SP4 Thomas Edwards	6/20/68	A Troop, 1/11.	PFC Donald Demond	11/30/69	what Troop /Sqdn.??
SP4 Dwight Hinman	6/23/68	we show 1/11	PFC Calvin Thompson	12/3/69	919th Engineer Co.
PFC Thomas Williams	7/1/68	we show 1/11	CPL Donald Majkowski	1/22/70	what Troop /Sqdn.??
SP4 Kurt Ward	7/18/68	B Troop, 1/11.	PFC Frank Hammond	1/23/70	what Troop /Sqdn.??
SP4 Charles Hamner	7/31/68	G Troop, 2/11.	SP4 Donald Rice	1/23/70	what Troop /Sqdn.??
WO Douglas Collins	8/21/68	what Troop /Sqdn.??	CPL Jesse Fray	2/25/70	what Troop /Sqdn.??
SFC Dick Hamilton	8/21/68	what Troop /Sqdn.??	SP4 Thomas Lovley	3/2/70	C Troop, 1/11.
PFC Jerald Pretiatko	9/5/68	we show 2/11	SGT Robert Smith	3/10/70	what Troop /Sqdn.??
PFC Edgar Tomlinson	9/12/68	M Company, 3/11.	SP4 William Moorhouse	3/12/70	what Troop /Sqdn.??

SP4 George Patterson	4/1/70	what Troop /Sqdn.??
SFC Mance Brown	4/3/70	what Troop /Sqdn.??
SSGT Orland Lloyd	4/7/70	what Troop/Sqdn.??
SSGT Robert Thompson	4/8/70	919th Engineer Co.
SP5 Craig Van Akin	4/8/70	919th Engineer Co..
(date correction suggested 5-2-70 )		
CPL Raymond Williams	4/9/70	what Troop/Sqdn.??
PFC Ernest Thorson	4/26/70	we show 2/11
SFC David Dash	5/2/70	919th Engineer Co..
SP4 Dionisio Carrizales	5/6/70	Air Cav Troop, (ACT).
PFC Padua-Ledesma	5/6/70	Air Cav Troop, (ACT).
SP4 Larry Morgan	5/8/70	what Troop/Sqdn.??
CPT Rhonald Durham	5/9/70	Air Cav Troop, (ACT).
SP4 Wiley Hooks	5/9/70	Air Cav Troop, (ACT).
SP4 James Russ	5/23/70	what Troop/Sqdn.??
SGT Thomas Healy	6/8/70	what Troop/Sqdn.??
PFC Thomas Cusson	6/20/70	A Troop, 1/11.
PFC Merrill Holt	6/20/70	A Troop, 1/11.
PFC Thomas Griffin	6/20/70	A Troop, 1/11.
SP4 Burder Athey	6/21/70	A Troop, 1/11.
SP5 Buford Spencer	6/21/70	A Troop, 1/11.
SP4 Michael Dadisman	6/24/70	what Troop/Sqdn.??
SP5 Greg Stevenson	7/24/70	C Troop, 1/11.
SP4 Joe Fulgham	8/2/70	what Troop/Sqdn.??
PVT Joseph Marcantonio	8/10/70	we show 2/11
PFC Robert Rother	8/23/70	what Troop/Sqdn.??
SGT William Wilhelm	9/6/70	what Troop/Sqdn.??
SP4 Kenneth Hendrix	10/26/70	D Co., 1/11. .
SGT Donnie Cunningham	11/18/70	A Troop, 1/11.
SP4 Jorge Jourdan-Font	11/27/70	what Troop/Sqdn.??
HHT or B Troop ? ( Font was a cook )		
SGT Carver Vaughn	12/27/70	K Troop, 3/11.
PFC Roy Chaney	12/31/70	what Troop/Sqdn.??
SGT Alfredo Salazar	12/31/70	what Troop/Sqdn.??
SGT Dennis Webster	12/31/70	what Troop/Sqdn.??
SP5 Raymond Enyeart	1/5/71	what Troop/Sqdn.??
1st Lt James Cartwright	1/8/71	G Troop, 2/11.
SP4 Loren Lebeau	2/1/71	what Troop/Sqdn.??
CW2 Joseph Brown	2/18/71	what Troop/Sqdn.??
(Chopper Pilot ACT?)		
SGT Willis Andrews	4/17/71	HHT, 2/11.
SP5 George Orr	4/17/71	F Troop, 2/11.
SP4 Gary Reynolds	4/17/71	F Troop, 2/11.
SP4 Fidencio Flores	4/23/71	what Troop/Sqdn.??
SP4 Hilbert Teeter	4/24/71	G Troop, 2/11.
PFC Herbert Barnes	5/19/71	F Troop, 2/11.
PFC Mickey Lane	5/19/71	what Troop/Sqdn.??
Billy Wayne Disheroon	8/22/71	what Troop/Sqdn.??
(E- Troop ??)		
SGT Jack Garnes	10/30/71	what Troop/Sqdn.??
SFC James Conley	11/07/71	what Troop/Sqdn.??
SP5 Albert Robalin	12/28/71	what Troop/Sqdn.??
CPT William Clark	2/23/72	G Troop, 2/11.
CPT Joseph Harris	4/8/72	HHT, 2/11.
SGT Mike Aguilar	5/10/72	F Troop, 2/11.

( possible wrong date ).

Send any information you may have to: email or address:

johnnydiamond@mindspring.com  
John Sorich  
5037 France Ave, So.  
Minneapolis, MN. 55410

or

Battle46A@comcast.net  
C. E. "Bill" Gregory, Jr  
720 Ashbrook Drive  
Hixson, TN 37343

## Incoming...

The following information has been provided by our Troopers:

From Trooper **Robert Heuston**: The state of New Jersey has awarded Robert C. Heuston the State of New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal. Robert served with HOW Battery, 3 / 11 from Aug 1967 until Aug. 1968. New Jersey awarded the state's highest military honor in recognition of his military service to the nation.

♦♦

From Trooper **Richard Sinsigalli** (HHT, Regiment, 1966). Dick has had his book; "Chopper Pilot. . . Not all of Us Were Heroes" published by Turner Publishing Company. Those who want to know more may contact Dick by E Mail at: RJSINSI@MSN.COM.

♦♦

### Troopers needing your help:

Trooper **Billy J. Temple** needs anyone (especially medical personnel) having knowledge of his being wounded and dusted off on April 2, 1970 to contact him at (601) 684-0849. Billy served with HHT, 2 / 11 in 1970.

♦♦

From Trooper **William R. Sweeney**, (A Troop, 1/11, 1969 -'70). An increasing number of former Blackhorse troopers are developing cancer and other diseases. Bill has been diagnosed with kidney cancer. Bill says: "I was fortunate, they found it early. I lost my right kidney." He is asking that if you or a loved one has this form of cancer, that you contact him. He and his Oncologist believe it is a result of Agent Orange, but need more information to make the case with the VA. If they are successful it will help us all. If you can furnish a notarized statement or other information to help in this effort, please contact Bill. Contact Bill at: Bill Sweeney, 251 W. 22nd. St. Chester, PA 19013-4921. Telephone: (610) 872-8612.

♦♦

Trooper **Louis H. Reymann**, (H Company, 2/11, 1967). While serving with the 3rd. Platoon on September 28, 1967, Louis's M-48 was hit by an RPG in the turret. On two other occasions his track was hit by mines and/or bombs buried in the ground. These incidents resulted in Louis losing a good part of his hearing, and he needs anyone who knows about the incidents to contact him and help provide information for the VA. Louis can be contacted at: Louis H. Reymann, 1425 Liberty Road, Suite 204, Eldersburg, MD 21784. E-Mail: writeapproach@erols.com. Phone (800) 704-5409, Fax (410) 795-7888.

♦♦

From **Robert (Bobby) Mohr**, the son of Trooper Victor A. Mohr, who was KIA while serving with B Troop, 1/11, on 19 April 1968. Bobby is searching for the buddies of his father. Trooper Mohr was serving as a machine gunner on a reconnaissance in force (RIF) mission north of Phouc Vinh when killed. Any troopers who remember Victor and the circumstances of his death, please contact his son. His family is in the process of having his medals upgraded and need eye witnesses to the battle. Contact Robert Mohr at 4147 Alexander Lane, Tuscaloosa, AL 35404. Cell Phone: (205) 301-6703 (with voice mail). Home phone: (205) 562-8816. Email: bisct32@hotmail.com.



# Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

Autumn has entered our lives with a bang. Gone are the long warm summer days and the gentle breezes of the evening. It seems like just last week the flowers and trees were all in bloom. Now we awaken to a light frost and crispness in the air. The trees are now turning various shades of reds and browns. The flowers are starting to lose their petals.

It makes trying to figure out what to wear to work each day a challenge. As we leave in the morning, it's cool but by the time the end of the day rolls around it has warmed up only to turn cool again as the sun goes down.

We attended the annual Cranberry Festival this weekend. As we walked thru the town the cool air helped to drift all the magnificent aromas to us. Smells of roasted ears of corn, bratwurst, mini doughnuts, roasted apples and of course cranberries. Cranberries cooked in every way imaginable, cakes, muffins, honey, popcorn, bread, syrup, and so much more.

As we stopped to listen to the talents of our local show choir doing some patriotic songs I found my mind wandering back to this years reunion in Nashville. I thought of all the wonderful guys who were there and wondered what during their time in Viet Nam they missed the most from home. Other then the wives, families or girlfriends they left behind, what was it? Was it certain places, music or even foods? I keep trying to put myself in their place but I just can't imagine it. And even now, what are our young men and women overseas thinking about and missing.

At the commissary where I work, there is a writing campaign going on. It's called *Letters to the Front*. If anyone is interested in participating in this program, please e-mail me and I will send you the information. As women who had loved ones in Viet Nam we know how important letters from home were. Let's show these folks that we care about them and are proud of what they are doing to preserve our freedom.

Next years reunion is well into the

**I have begun to think about who should receive next years 11th ACVVC Women's Award. I have a few names kicking around in my head, so if you think you know of someone who is deserving of this great honor then e-mail me at [Moreno@Tomah.com](mailto:Moreno@Tomah.com) and give me your thoughts as to who and why**

planning stages and once again I am looking for volunteers to help with the registration table process. I am hoping things will run as smoothly if not smoother than this past one and will therefore be wanting at least two people to help every two hours for two hour shifts, beginning on Thursday afternoon.

If you attended the Women's meeting in Nashville, then I hope you have by this time received your address book. If you didn't please let me know. This book is given 'only' to the ladies who attend our meetings. So, if you wanted one but didn't attend, then plan on attending next year. You'll enjoy yourself and be glad you came. We do more than sit around and chitchat. We play games, have discussions, laugh and sometimes even cry together. I'm not sure yet what the discussion topic will be this year, but I promise it will be good. And if you have any suggestions please let me know.

I have begun to think about who should receive next years 11th ACVVC Women's Award. I have a few names kicking around in my head, so if you think you know of someone who is deserving of this great honor then e-mail me at [Moreno@Tomah.com](mailto:Moreno@Tomah.com) and give me your thoughts as to who and why. She should be someone who is not only understanding of her husbands time in Viet Nam, but is willing to give her time and support to the 11TH ACVVC when asked. I guess you could say that she has gone above and beyond her call of duty as a "military" spouse.

Well folks it's time to go feed a hungry family so until next time, I send you all my thoughts and love.

*Barb Moreno*

## REFLECTION from page 1

In the years to come, Vietnam lay hidden away in a far-off corner of your mind. Every now and then you tried to share the experience, but each telling was an exercise in frustration. Oh, people were polite enough, but they simply couldn't relate. So you stuffed it again. And again.

**In the smoke-filled bunker that first evening, she met men from across the country who hugged when they met and cried with each other.**

But then, with your wife, you attended a Blackhorse reunion. In the smoke-filled bunker that first evening, she met men from across the country who hugged when they met and cried with each other. She saw tables littered with aging photos, and heard stories that, while they may have changed a bit through the years, recounted acts of extraordinary valor. She began, for the first time, to truly experience the brotherhood that is known only to those who have carried a wounded buddy from the battlefield ... who have peered for hours into the deep, wet, darkness of a night ambush ... who have felt the ground tremble as incoming rained from the sky ... who have breathed together the smoke of battle.

And so I salute you sons and daughters and wives and friends who come with us to our reunions ... who hear, once again, the Blackhorse stories you've heard so many times before ... who try to understand what it is we're all about.

You see, your being there is better for us than it is for you. Because in being there, you show us in such a special way, how much you really care. And in being there, we are better able to share with you that life changing experience called "Vietnam."

Thanks for coming. Thanks for caring.

### Newsletter Deadlines

The following are the due dates to submit articles for *Thunder Run*

- First Quarter .....Jan 15
- Second Quarter .....Apr 15
- Third Quarter .....Aug 15
- Fourth Quarter .....Oct 15

# 18th Annual 11<sup>th</sup> ACVVC Reunion in Eugene, Oregon

by: Adrian Vaaler, (HHT, Regiment, 1969-'70)  
Reunion Chair 2003

Here it is the middle of October and many things are taking shape to help make Eugene a positive and memorable reunion for everyone. Planning has begun for the major events including the banquet, memorial service and local trips.

The Memorial Service has tentatively been scheduled for Saturday, August 2, 2003 at 2pm in Skinner's Butte Park. The entire large, spacious and wooded park is a war memorial. The park is within walking distance from the Eugene Hilton, along a local major river, the Willamette. There is a Wall in the park with the names of casualties from WW 1 thru the Gulf war from Lane County. Of the twelve 11th Cav Nam casualties in Oregon two were from the Eugene-Springfield area. So far the Eugene Symphonic Band has been invited to play before and after the service. There will be two black horses from the Lane County Sheriff's mounted posse. In the repertoire of the Eugene Symphonic Band is the John Philip Sousa march, "Black Horse Troop", which the band will play, among many other pieces. The active duty Regiment has been asked to come and furnish a color guard, a rifle detail, and a bugler to play echo Taps. A speaker is in the works for the Memorial Service.

For the Saturday night banquet the hotel has given us a map showing that over 1,450 people could be seated in the ballroom ala mess hall style, although we're expecting about a thousand. There are also configurations for a smaller number using round tables. Major General Sunnell, a graduate of the University of Oregon ROTC program in 1953 has accepted our invitation to speak at the banquet.

At Nashville, Betty Schmitt from the Convention and Visitor's Association of Lane County (CVALCO) took an informal poll of interests for side trips. The most popular choice was the trip to the coast. There was enough interest to offer a rafting trip down the McKenzie River. Many would like to visit local wineries and

a shop til you drop trip might be offered. One of the issues is how to schedule the various trips. We have a local company that will offer the trips including transportation.

## Eugene Reunion: July 31 – August 3, 2003

- **Host Hotel:** Eugene Hilton Hotel, downtown Eugene.  
\$89/night Phone 800-445-8667  
Website: [www.eugene.hilton.com](http://www.eugene.hilton.com)  
Group Code: CVT
- **Overflow Hotel:** Doubletree Inn (Gateway Mall) \$89/night  
Phone: 800-722-TREE  
Website: [www.doubletreeeugene.com](http://www.doubletreeeugene.com)
- **Local Info:** Convention and Visitor's Association of Lane County Oregon (CVALCO). Website: [VisitLaneCounty.org](http://VisitLaneCounty.org). Phone: 800-547-5445 (For any questions about Eugene and Oregon or golf courses)
- **Transportation:**
  - Eugene Airport: United, United Express, Horizon, America West
  - Portland International Airport (110 miles north of Eugene): Major airlines from all over the country
  - Train: AMTRAK has service into Eugene
- **Reunion Contact:** Adrian Vaaler (69-70 HHT, Regt)  
2610 Baker Blvd  
Eugene, OR 97403  
Phone: 541-344-2113  
Email: [BlackhorseEugene@aol.com](mailto:BlackhorseEugene@aol.com)

I urge you to make early room reservations. As of now, reservations for half the rooms have been made for Friday and Saturday night at the Hilton. The Hilton has 250 rooms available. We will be the only group staying there that weekend.

I'm looking forward to all of us coming to Eugene in brotherhood and friendship.

Allons,  
Adrian

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## VET from page 5

- National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.
- He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket - palsied now and aggravatingly slow - who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.
  - He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being - a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the serv-

ice of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

- He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.
- So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say "Thank You". That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Two little words that mean a lot, "THANK YOU".

*It's the soldier, not the reporter,  
Who gave us our freedom of the press.*

*It's the soldier, not the poet,  
Who gave us our freedom of speech.*

*It's the soldier, not the campus organizer,  
Who gave us our the freedom to demonstrate.*

*It's the soldier, Who salutes the flag,  
Who serves others with respect for the flag,*

*And whose coffin is draped by the flag,  
Who allows the protestor to burn the flag.*



## Favorite Places

What's your favorite place? People ask about mine pretty often. What with living full time in a motor home and having spent twenty-seven years in the Army, I guess it's a logical question. The answer is I have several favorite places. For example, Lake Tahoe. It's a wonderful and majestic place. The Black Hills of South Dakota are a favorite too. That's where I'm at now as I begin this article. I like the beauty here. I also like the Indian (OK, Native American) heritage of this area. (How it became part of this country is another matter). Maybe my part Cherokee blood explains it, who knows? I spent some time, like six years, in Germany. I guess my favorite place over there is the Berchtesgaden to Salzburg area. The Austrian and Bavarian Alps are magnificent. The towns are full of character, charm and unbeatable gast hauses (restaurants.) The people were just fine. That must be why it's a big time resort area.

But, you say, "This isn't a travelogue paper. *Thunder Run* is for vets. If I wanted to know about your favorite traveling places, I'd read the travel section in the paper." OK. Gotcha. So let's get to the point of this article. Which is still about favorite places. But not the travelogue type. Now let's get our memories into gear for a minute. When you were in the 'Nam what was your favorite place? That's a broad and open question. But think for a minute. You did have favorite places, didn't you? Like the club in the rear? OK, so you didn't get to the rear. I expect your very favorite place in the whole of Viet Nam was probably at Ton Son Nhut Air Base because it meant you were on the way home. Right? So, next to that what was your favorite place? I know some who were drivers who wanted to change jobs ASAP. The driver's compartment wasn't everybody's favorite place. You know why. If you don't I guess you weren't out in the field. Maybe some liked driving enough to take the risks of getting yours when the stuff started flying because the driver was in a precarious position. Know what precari-

**They (I don't remember who) said a few times that my favorite place was also a great place to get waxed if we hit a mine. But we didn't hit a mine.**

ous means? Look it up. Of course, if you were a driver you know. For sleeping, some guys favorite place was stretched out on the bench inside the ACav. Some liked a cot outside under a poncho. The M88 crew liked it inside their M88 (tank retriever - right?), on the floor.

Well, now, let me tell you about my favorite places. The subject is places for riding. When you went out on an operation where was your favorite place to ride? We all know it definitely was not inside the ACav or tank, if that was where you crewed. Everyone knew that if you rode inside, you were toast in a firefight or ambush. So you rode on top, except when some brass came by. You got inside until the brass was gone then it was on top again. It made common sense. Some didn't have common sense. But you did if you rode on top. I don't remember where the hog crews rode. For the uninitiated, a hog was a self-propelled howitzer, 155mm. Right? But riding wasn't inside, as I recall. Same reason. Except for the driver, of course. Anyway, I don't recall hogs even having anyplace to ride inside. Do you? (Even when the brass came by.)

Let me tell you my personal favorite places to ride. Of course, since I'm writing the article, I get to do the telling. Naturally, you don't have to listen (or read). But I think telling you about my favorite places will stimulate your memories too. So you can relate. (Some thinkers call that communicating. Whatever.) I'll start with helicopters, which most of you rode in only occasionally or maybe just a couple of times except for the Air Cav Troop guys who rode in helicopters a lot, like every day. Anyway, the Catholic chaplain and I rode them every Sunday. Other days too as they were a very quick way to get around. (Obvious.) My favorite place was on the end seat, buckled in and with

the doors off (or just open). That way I could lean clear out and look straight down over wherever we were flying. It was exhilarating and fun. During the week I spent a lot of time riding around with the recon troops doing things like looking for VC and things like that. It was exhilarating in it's own way, especially whenever we found some VC. Same with NVA. I don't think I'd classify it as exactly fun, but it sure was exhilarating. Got your adrenalin pumping. Moving along, my favorite place in (on) an ACav was to ride sitting on the drivers hatch. You remember. Since everyone was riding on top, the ACav wasn't closed down. Even the driver had his head stuck out on top. So the hatch cover was laid back and made a great place to ride. Much better than the rear hatch which was fine except that I have short legs and kept sliding down. I couldn't get a grip with my feet like I could on the drivers hatch. They (I don't remember who) said a few times that my favorite place was also a great place to get waxed if we hit a mine. But we didn't hit a mine. Thank God. (Literally). Just got shot at - a separate problem.

Riding on tanks and hogs was a different matter. They had a drivers hatch cover, but it was very hard to sit there to ride. Matter of fact, it was impossible because the main guns on tanks and the tubes on hogs were in the way. And they were more important than someone riding on the drivers hatch. So on the tank I rode on the bustle rack. Or was it the bus-sel rack? I never did figure out how to spell it. Anyway, it was the cage type thing welded onto the back of the turret where the crew kept all its important stuff like soda and beer and maybe some ammo or whatever. Probably kept ponchos and the like there too. It was a great place to ride because you were high up and could see everything. Even when there was stuff you didn't want to see.

Even when you wish you weren't there at all like in an ambush. But the fun was the ride and swinging out over the side when the TC swung the turret to shoot to the side. Next was the hog. Now that was a trip. The hog didn't really have anyplace to ride. Which may seem like a strange thing for me to say. But with no place built in to ride, the guys fixed me up just fine. They put a lawn chair on the flat part next to the tube and that's where I rode. Solid comfort. You may think, "what a strange place to ride" when you realize I was beside the gun (howitzer) tube. But they didn't just swing it around and shoot from the hip like the tanks (including Sheridans) did. So I was safe in that regard. But it did have it's challenges, like not falling off when the hog made a pivot turn like what happened on the road from Snoul on the way back into Viet Nam from Cambodia. Made me want to hang onto something except there was nothing to hang on to. Fortunately, I didn't quite fall off along with the lawn chair. Made a more careful man out of me though. So it was still a favorite place. And I became a more alert chaplain.

Now here's the transition: stick with me because favorite places come in many forms and I want to show you another of my favorite places. Actually, it's my main favorite place, better than Lake Tahoe and even better than being on a Freedom Bird. It's sort of explained in the twenty-third Psalm, which is one of the best-known places in the whole Bible. It's also one of people's favorite places in faith and the Bible. Here's what it says in the part which my Viet Nam experience makes me think of: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and your staff, they comfort me." (Psalm 23:4). That place has carried me through two years in Viet Nam and more than thirty years since. That place being specifically in the hands and heart (so to speak) of God Almighty. Jesus, the Son of God, said it another way when he talked about my favorite place (which is the favorite place of a whole lot of other people too): "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for



## Journey to Fiddler's Green

We're sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. Our deepfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends.

**Doyle D. Blocker** passed away on December 19, 2000. He was 63, and served with L Troop, 3rd. Squadron in 1966 - 67.

**Lowell C. Cardwell** passed away on March 18, 2002. Lowell served as a Mess Steward with HHT, 3rd. Squadron from June 1970 through May of 1971. Lowell was a long time loyal member of the 11th ACVVC, and proud of his service with the Blackhorse.

**Thomas P. Coldiron** passed away on August 7, 2002. Tom served with E Troop, 2/11 from October 1970 through October 1971. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC.

**Paul A. Gitin** passed away on August 11, 2002. Paul served with HHT, 1/11 from February through November 1967. He was a life member of the 11th ACVVC.

**Patrick Hyer** passed away on March 2, 2001. Pat served with HHT, Regiment, in 1966 - 67.

**Frank E. Krause** passed away as the result of a stroke on July 13, 1993. Frank served with the Regiment in 1968 - '69.

**Daniel Howard Northern** passed away on April 12, 2001. Daniel was with the regiment in 1968 - '69.

**Gary Edward Ogles** passed away on 12 November 2001. Edward suffered from lung cancer. He served with Howitzer Battery, 3rd Squadron in from January through December 1970.

**Marvin O. Tucker, Jr.** passed away on June 24, 2001, after a battle with cancer. Marvin served with the 1st Platoon, A Troop, 1/11, from February 1969 through February 1970. Marvin was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

**David Richard Wedlake** passed away on March 18, 1998 after suffering a heart attack. David was a member of the 11th ACVVC and served with M Company, 3/11, from October 1969 through September 1970.

your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." That's in the New Testament book of Matthew 11:28-30.

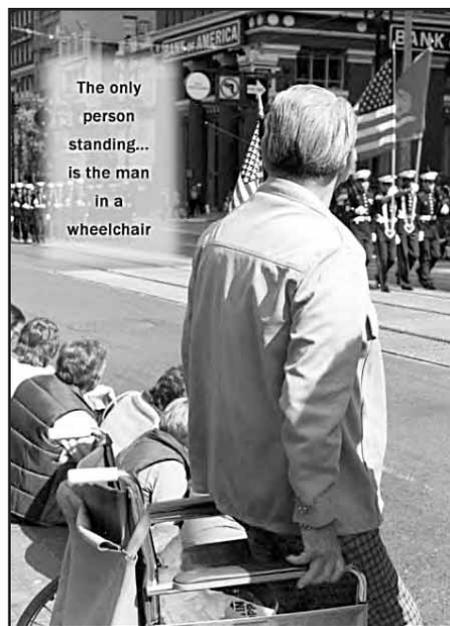
Like I said about my favorite places, riding on the drivers hatch, the bustle rack or just being where I needed to be, I had many profound experiences. A lot were even enjoyable. Through it all I hope my life counted for something. I know I cared deeply for the troops I was there to "chaplain" for. But I know also, that it was because of being in my very favorite place in God's hands through faith in Jesus Christ that made it all worthwhile and full of purpose. That applies to my whole life just like it can for your whole life too. Which I hope it does.

So, where's your favorite place? Or should I say, "places?" There are many to choose from. I hope that being in the hands of God through faith in Jesus Christ is one. The main one. Numero uno. Got it?

God bless you. God loves you. So do I.

Chaplain Larry Haworth  
LEHaworth@aol.com  
176 Rainbow Drive, #7627  
Livingston, TX 77399

## Photo file...



Submit your photos to "Thunder Run!" Originals are best. Remember, if you submit digital pics, be sure the resolution is at least 300dpi. The 72dpi resolution for web use is not good enough for the printed page.

# What I Learned In Vietnam

by John Tillman

- Don't forget your insect repellent when you go on a dismounted, night ambush.
- Always wear gloves when handling concertina wire.
- A pallet of beer contains 96 cases (So does a pallet of sodas, but who cares?).
- When placed in a meramite can full of ice water, a warm beer takes 9 minutes to become cold enough to drink.
- If you're too impatient to wait the 9 minutes, spin the can of beer on a block of ice for 4-5 minutes to make it cold enough to drink
- It's better to be the left gunner on an ACAV than the right gunner. You don't have to breathe the exhaust fumes that way.
- Always wear your shirt when driving an ACAV. The brass from the .50 caliber tends to burn the skin.
- When borrowing the 1st Sergeant's jeep to take an unauthorized road trip to Saigon, make sure the gas tank is full.
- There are 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes and 31,536,000 seconds in a year.
- If you take a Sheridan's gunner's seat out of the turret, you can carry an additional 17 cases of beer.
- Wrapped in a fatigue shirt, a fifth of Jim Beam will fit perfectly inside the amplifier integrator in the turret of a Sheridan (it won't break either!).
- After deciding on how much money to take on R&R, double that amount and then double it again
- The flash suppressor on an M16 (not M16A1) will break the wire on a case of C rations with very little effort.
- Never piss off the people who pay you, the people who feed you and the 1st Sergeant.
- You will make mistakes during your tour of duty in Vietnam. Make them with enthusiasm.
- They should change the name of R&R to I&I (Intoxication & Intercourse).
- If you spray GI bug spray on your pet dog, all of its fleas will die and he will be your friend for life.
- Check between the road wheels of your track for pet dogs before moving out to react to enemy contact.
- Try not to get put on shit-burning detail when you're hung over.
- If you sneak into a fire support base mess hall during a rocket attack, you can eat 18 pieces of chicken before the mess personnel come back from the bunkers.
- If you put every main dish item from a case of C rations into a pot, cook it up and season it just right, it still tastes like shit.

➤ Leeches will attach themselves to your body in places you never thought imaginable.

- If you decide to take a shower in the rain, get lathered-up and it quits raining. That soap is a real bitch to get off.
- If you're in the rear and decide to have a little fun with a short-time girl in the outhouse, make sure the 1st Sergeant isn't in the AO.
- When you're changing the barrel of an M60 during a firefight, be careful where you throw the burned-out barrel.
- Red ants will always make their nests in the top of the tree you're trying to push over with your tank.
- Make sure you're up-wind of the CS grenade that you just threw.
- Don't leave your tools lying in the hot sun.
- A Prick 25 battery can be rigged up to operate a 13-inch television.

**No one cares what your MOS is;**

**you're in the Cav now, baby!**

*John Tillman was a platoon leader with B Troop, 1st Sqdn. from Jun. '70 to Feb. '71*

## Show Your Pride



TOP: Charlie Ganno (HHT, 2/11 '67-68) shows pride with his Florida Veterans License Plate, around the Hernando, FL area. (Photo by C. Ganno)

BELOW: Russell Dove (G Troop 2/11 '69-'70) shows his pride of his Troop on his truck. Russell's track number was G-19. (Photo by R. Dove)

# Unnamed

by Merritt Durr

Strangely quiet except for the babbling brook.

Can't see anything past the stream crook.

Where are the sounds of birds and other jungle prey,

This does not look like my kind of day.

The sweet smell of flora is in the air,

We are awful close to Charlie's lair.

Moments hang in total suspension,

Everyone feels the tension.

There is movement ahead,

First one head and then several more heads.

All heads are covered with pith helmets,

No one waits to see what develops.

We give them everything we have got, It is shoot or be shot.

I grab my radio mike,

Damn this group even has a bike.

Bandit, Bandit seven seven Alpha, this is Catbird seven niner, contact fire mission.

"Send me your grid" is the radio's transmission.

Relay is given for Willie Pete,

His flash spurs us on to compete.

Orientintate,

Adjust, splash, wait!

HE on the deck 100 meters to our front,

So this is what it is like to be a grunt.

The air is alive with metal white hot,

Cordite smell and screams occur an awful lot.

Charlie does not reply,

He will be back on that you can rely.

Behind he leaves eight,

Blackhorse patches are left in sight.

*Merritt served with K Troop, 3rd Sqdn. as the F.O. In 1969 – 1970.*

# Why the American flag is folded 13 times

Author Unknown

Have you ever wondered why the flag of the United States of America is folded 13 times when it is lowered or when it is folded and handed to the widow at the burial of a veteran? Here is the meaning of each of those folds and what it means to you.

★ The 'first fold' of our flag is a symbol of life.

★ The 'second fold' is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

★ The 'third fold' is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

★ The 'fourth fold' represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

★ The 'fifth fold' is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

★ The 'sixth fold' is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States Of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

★ The 'seventh fold' is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

★ The 'eighth fold' is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

★ The 'ninth fold' is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

★ The 'tenth fold' is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

★ The 'eleventh fold', in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

★ The 'twelfth fold', in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust".

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.

The next time you see a flag ceremony honoring someone that has served our country, either in the Armed Forces or in our civilian services such as the Police Force or Fire Department, keep in mind all the important reasons behind each and every movement. They have paid the ultimate sacrifice for all of us by honoring our flag and our Country.

*Submitted by Ruth Ann Maynard*



# Quartermaster

## ORDER FORM

## 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
Coffee Mug, white 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia .....	B	6.00		_____	_____
Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia. ....	A	10.00		_____	_____
Key ring, 1.5 " Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia .....	A	3.00		_____	_____
Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse w/full color BH insignia .....	A	2.00		_____	_____
Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon .....	A	2.00		_____	_____
History Book, "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam" .....	B	25.00		_____	_____
Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) Man's Woman's .....	A	20.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, (indicate choice) colored subdued .....	A	4.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Challenge Coin, Antique silver 1.75" BH insignia/VN map on faces .....	A	12.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse 100 year memorial coin, 1.75" crossed sabers/BH insignia new .....	A	12.00		_____	_____
Belt Buckle, solid brass w/crossed sabers & BH insignia .....	B	20.00		_____	_____
Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia .....	B	50.00		_____	_____
Lighter, "Zippo" style brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia .....	B	15.00		_____	_____
License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11 .....	B	5.00		_____	_____
License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white .....	B	6.00		_____	_____
Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib .....	B	30.00		_____	_____
Tote Bag, white, 12x12x6 w/full color BH insignia new .....	A	20.00		_____	_____
Barbeque Apron, white, 24x30 w/full color BH insignia new .....	A	25.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Pin .....	A	3.00		_____	_____
11th ACR Regimental Creast .....	A	3.00		_____	_____
Pin, "Xuan Loc" .....	A	3.00		_____	_____
Pin, "Quan Loi" .....	A	3.00		_____	_____
Pin, "100 Year Anniversary of 11th Cav" .....	A	3.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers .....	A	5.00		_____	_____
Reunion pin (indicate choice), Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Appleton New Orleans, San Diego, Buffalo .....	A	1.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, 10k gold w/full BH insignia .....	B	70.00		_____	_____
Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21).....	B	35.00		_____	_____
Men's Ring, 10k gold w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size) .....	B	275.00	_____	_____	_____
Blackhorse Patch Temporary Tatoo .....	A	3.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Video (based on book) (specify format) <input type="checkbox"/> VHS <input type="checkbox"/> DVD .....	A	27.00		_____	_____

Note: all clothing items are available in size medium through size 3XL  
Specify size and color preference of item requested.

Blackhorse Tshirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one) .....	A	16.00		_____	_____
Henley Shirt, 100% cotton, short sleeve, round neck w/full color BH insignia and VN ribbon. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White A .....	A	20.00		_____	_____
Golf Shirt, 100% cotton w/full color BH insignia on left front. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White (check one) .....	A	30.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Sweatshirt, 50% cotton, 50% acrylic w/full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one) .....	A	25.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, snap front, quilted lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back ), crossed sabers (front right) and Allons insignia (front left) .....	A	70.00		_____	_____

Shipping Costs: A items = \$4.00; B items = \$6.00 (max shipping is \$6.00 per order)

**Subtotal** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Shipping and Handling** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$6.00. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to "11th ACVVC." Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **Prices effective until 12-0102. Previous price lists invalid.** Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Rodney H. George, 21450 West Ninemile Road, Huson, MT 59846.**



# Blackhorse in Vietnam

In the words of the men who fought



## The Documentary Film Release

Produced in Hollywood, California, by Blackhorse Productions corporation with the assistance of Otis Carey, of the 11thACVVC.

The documentary film is almost two hours in length. You can order the video in DVD or VHS format. This project is our opportunity to tell the truth, about the valor, courage, and the sacrifices made by the Blackhorse Troopers in Vietnam. We deserve to be remembered and our stories told to future generations.

The documentary contains excerpts from over 32 interviews of Blackhorse Troopers, excerpts from hundreds of never before seen photos, and live recorded audio and video footage of combat in Vietnam. Some of the Troopers interviewed include, Homer Pittman, Monty Montelongo, Harold Fritz, Thomas White, families of men KIA, and many others. The film is both entertaining and educational for the whole family and contains the greatest musical hits during the Vietnam war.

**To order your copy in time for Christmas, please fill out this form below and mail it to our Quartermaster.: 11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Rodney H. George, 21450 West Ninemile Road, Huson, Mt. 59846**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please select what type of format you want and how many of each.

Shipping is \$4.00 for one or \$6.00 total  
for more than one.  
(The max per order shipping is \$6.00)

Number of DVD's \_\_\_\_\_ X \$27.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of VHS's \_\_\_\_\_ X \$27.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Cost \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

## “We’ll Never Forget You”

by Anne Plowman

Stand tall you men, who serve and then  
Be proud of Red, White, and Blue  
Go bravely out, without a doubt  
For God is looking after you.  
Give your best, then be at rest  
For you have served your duty well  
Giving your all, not willing to fall  
But remembering your friends who fell.  
This one's for you, soldiers so true  
Serving without seeing the purpose or cause  
Who fell by the side, it's for you i cried  
Our Nation now silent remembering with pause.  
Your great bravery, in the face of tragedy  
Every American to you owes their thanks  
For standing your ground, for not letting down  
But pushing on through men and through tanks.  
Thank you from me, i owe you my liberty  
As do all Americans who claim  
To be set free, and realistically  
With freedom should be your name.

## Items To Ponder

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If your parents are still alive and still married, you are very rare, even in the United States.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer healing touch.

If you can say what you want without fear of going to jail, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world who cannot express opinions freely.

**11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA**

Membership is open to all troopers who served with or were attached to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment while in the countries of Vietnam or Cambodia from August 1966 thru March 1972. Membership is also open to the wives, parents and children of our Troopers killed in action.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ DATES: FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

(Troop, Sqdn) (Mo/Yr) (Mo/Yr)

SER NO RANK (during tour) \_\_\_\_\_ SSN NO \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER INFORMATION \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE MEMBERSHIP:  NEW  RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL (\$15)  LIFE (\$100)

LIFE Plan (\$25 enclosed, plus 3 payments of \$25 in 3, 6 and 9 months)

IN ADDITION, PLEASE ACCEPT MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize the release of my address/phone number to other Troopers who served with the 11th ACR

(Sign) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks/money orders payable to: **11th ACV VC**. Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC Membership, Bill Holford, 8515 Shoal creek Blvd., Apt. #108, Austin, TX 78757-7548.**

☆☆☆ **Membership is Our Strength** ☆☆☆  
**It's not the price you pay to belong,**  
**It's the price you paid to become eligible to join**



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